

Outdoor news

Utah State Parks system offers 45 areas to camp, fish, boat and swim

By ROD COLLETT

Associate Sports Editor

Some of the greatest opportunities for fun in the great outdoors this summer are found in 45 developed state parks throughout Utah.

But one of the hard facts about state parks: These group, family, picnic campsites are extremely popular and you need a reservation.

Advance reservations are available at all developed state parks. A toll-free number, 1-800-284-2267, is run by the MISTIX corporation. Call during regular business hours. Individual campsites reservations can be made three to 120 days in advance.

One of the most popular state parks locally is Wasatch Mountain in Midway. The facilities include 147 units and 27 holes of golf within the park's boundaries. To even get on the golf course on holidays or weekends requires a starting time. It's the site of the annual Wasatch Open.

Of course, nearby is Deer

Creek Reservoir with fishing, swimming, boating and wind surfing opportunities and its own state park. Deer Creek has 23 units.

The maximum length of stay at most state parks is 14 days, but only 10 days at Wasatch Mountain and Deer Creek.

If water sports are your summer treat, there are 25 water-oriented state parks in Utah. They feature everything from power boating to sailing to fishing to canoeing.

With the popularity of off-road and four-wheel drive vehicles, Utah has a tremendous number of parks with onsite or nearby riding areas.

These include Coral Pink Sand Dunes, Dead Horse Point, Escalante, Goblin Valley, Green River, Huntington, Kodachrome Basin, Millsite, Palisades, Piute, Quail Creek, Scofield, Starvation, Steinaker, Wasatch Mountain and Yuba.

In addition to the 45 developed state parks in Utah, there are five undeveloped parks, all of which total 94,850 acres of land.

Not all of the acreage is

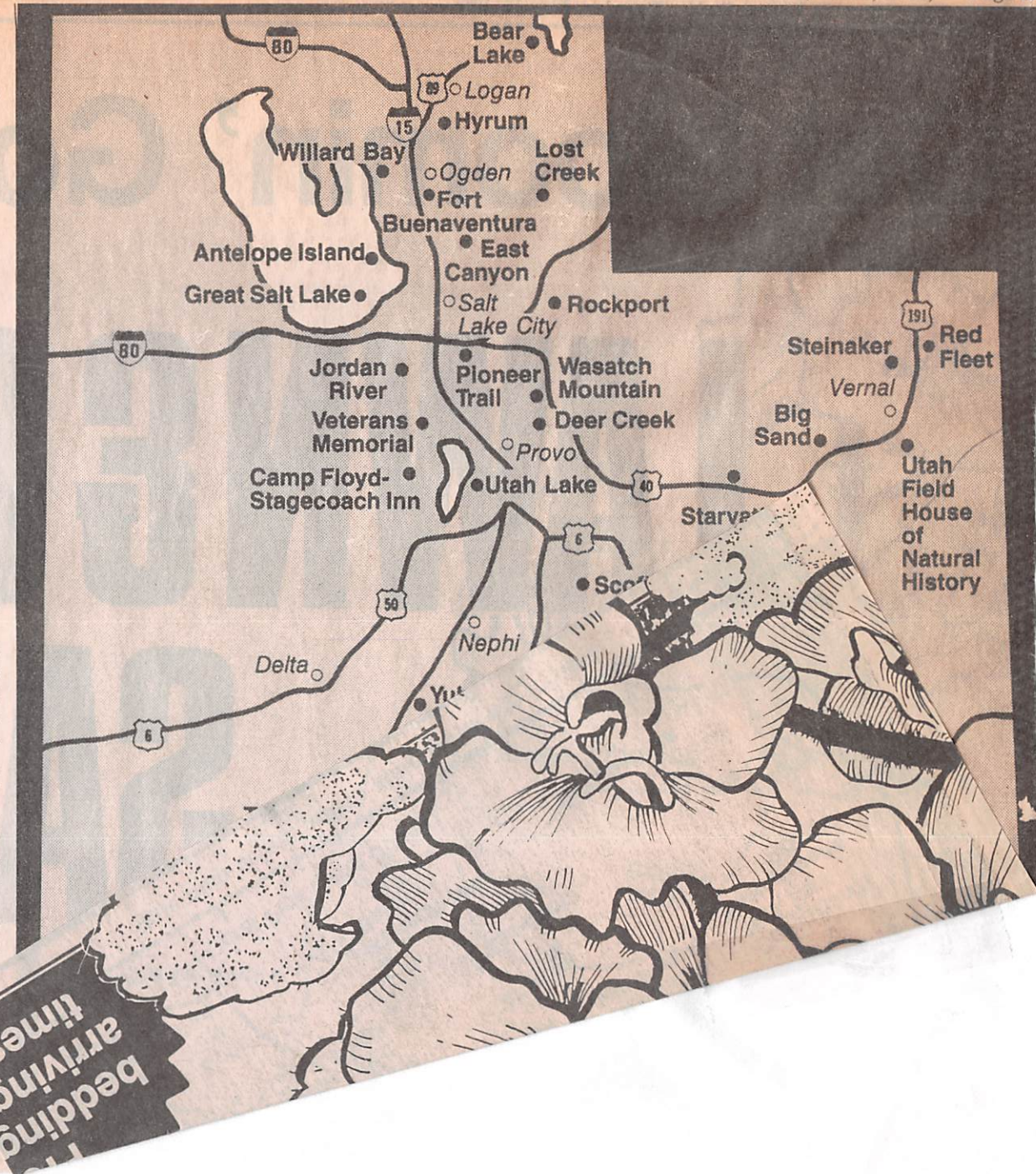
strictly for outdoor recreation. Some state parks are educational.

For example, the Anasazi Indian Village State Park is located near the town of Boulder. The site is largely unexcavated, but those artifacts that have been uncovered are displayed in a museum.

Edge of the Cedars State Park near Blanding contains the remains of an Anasazi Indian pueblo with ceremonial kivas believed to have been constructed between 700 and 1220 A.D. This state park also has a museum with artifacts and pottery. Other exhibits include information on the Navajo and Ute cultures and early Anglo settlers.

The Fremont Indian State Park near Sevier and the Iron Mission State Park near Cedar City have Indian and pioneer exhibits, respectively.

To obtain brochures and information about Utah State Parks, write to: Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, 16 West North Temple, Salt Lake City 84116 or call 538-7220.



This panoramic view of the new Wasatch Mountain State Park golf course in Midway shows what area

golfers will see from the clubhouse looking out over the practice putting green and the spanking

new course. At far left can be seen Heber Valley and the snow-capped mountains are at far right.

The number nine green beyond the practice green

Love Affair Set for Region Linksters

By Marion Dunn
Tribune Sports Writer

MIDWAY — This little community in Heber Valley will be the setting this month for a love affair involving people from all over the Intermountain Area.

June is a month of passion and golfers are romantic by nature, so it is certain to be a case of love at first sight when golfers are introduced to the Wasatch Mountain State Park golf course here this month.

The Wasatch Mountain course will open for play about June 18. All 18 holes should be ready and public course golfers are in for a country club treat.

Has Everything
Because this course is as pretty and as challenging as a private course. It will play 7,005 yards long, it has five lakes,

water, ditches, trees, sand, heavy and light rough. It has slightly angled holes and it has sharp doglegs. It has everything the discerning golfer can ask. And it has everything the beginner hopes to find.

No golf course could ask for more than that and from the looks of the course now no public golfer in the region could ask more of a course than this one

has to offer.

Even with dark rain clouds scudding over the Wasatch Mountains the course looked beautiful and inviting when visited late last week. The fairways are lush and the greens smooth and cool. The scenery might be equaled in the region but it can't be beaten.

Top Officials

Lanny Nielsen, one of Utah's better-playing young golfers, is the head pro. Jim Walker, formerly at the Mick Riley course in Murray, is greens superintendent and the course is under the direction of Earl Kohler of Midway who is state park superintendent.

The course is located at the base of the mountains just past The Homestead here.

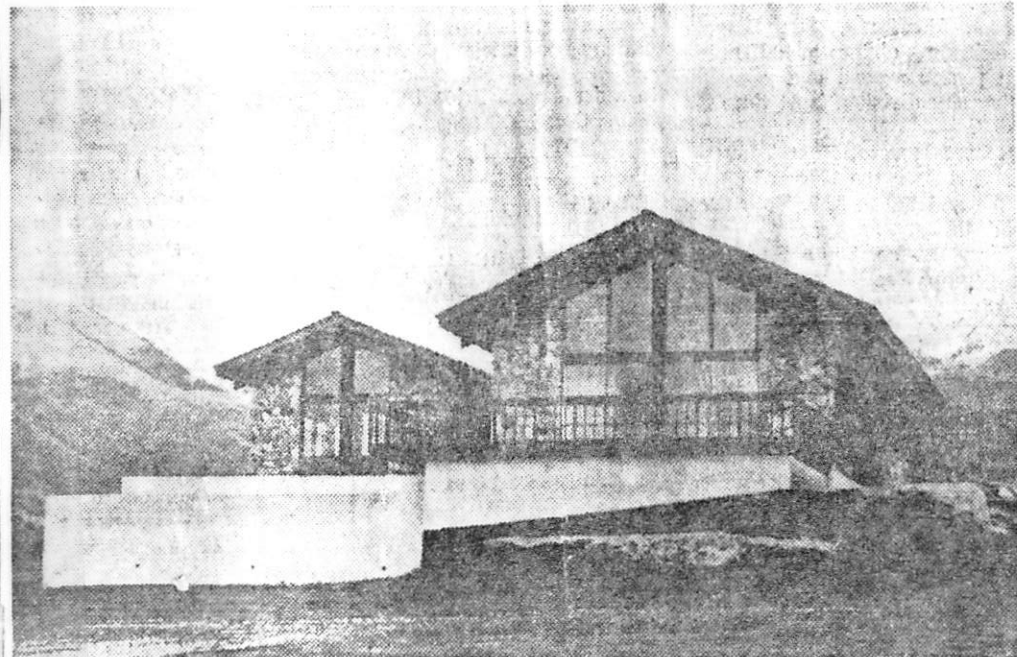
The course will play to a par-72, 36 on each side. It has two par threes and two par fives on each side. The front is 3,475 yards long and the back, 3,530.

Hole-by-Hole

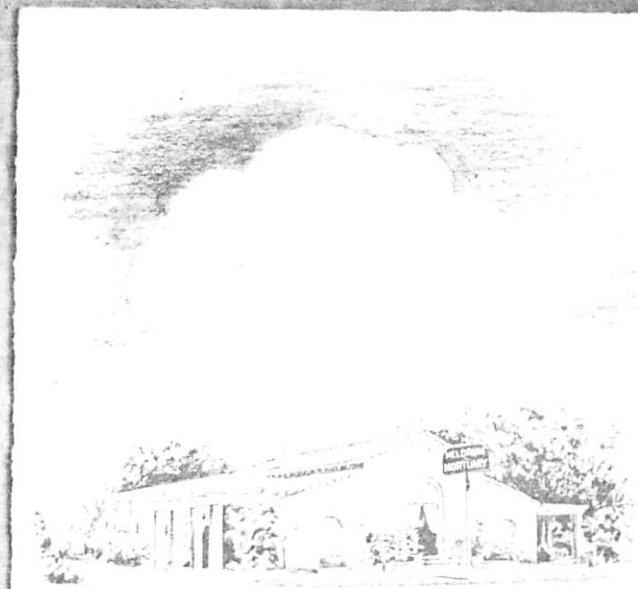
This is the way the holes break down by length and par:

No. 1—370-yards, par-4; No. 2—18-yards, par-3; No. 3—405 yards, par-4; No. 4—520-yards, par-5; No. 5—470-yards, par-4; No. 6—430-yards, par 4; No. 7—400-yards, par-4; No. 8—200-yards, par-3; No. 9—495-yards, par-5. Par—36.

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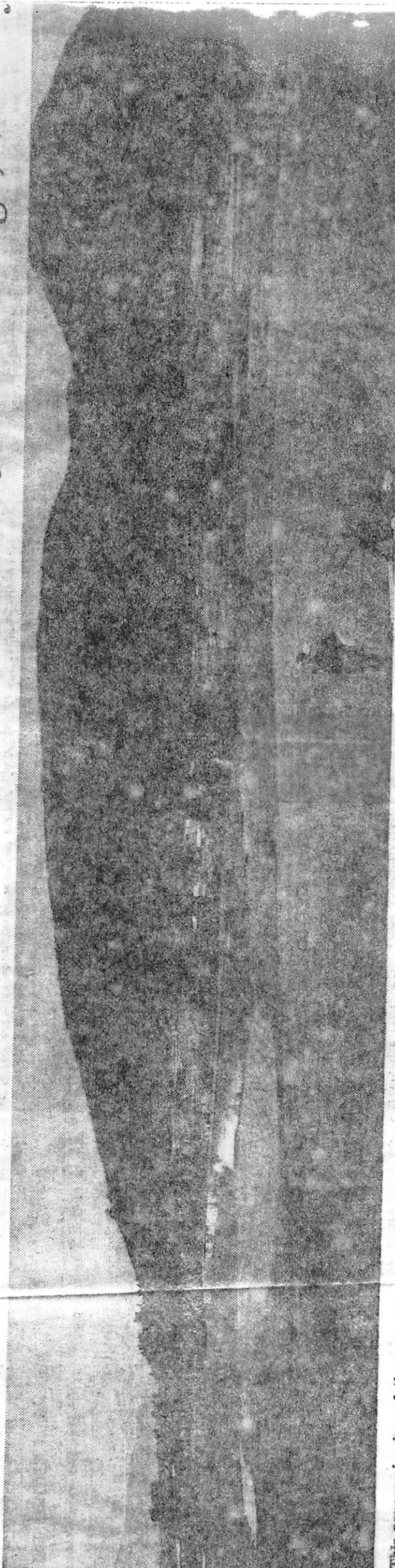


The clubhouse at Wasatch Mountain State Park golf course is almost complete and should be ready when the course opens on about June 18.



In Remembrance

Wasatch Mountain State Park Course Offers Golfers Challenge, Scenery



This panoramic view of the new Wasatch Mountain State Park golf course in Midway shows what area golfers will see from the clubhouse looking out over the practice putting green and the spanking new course. At far left can be seen Heber Valley and the snow-capped mountains are at far right. The number nine green is in left foreground beyond the practice green. The course is set on a plateau.

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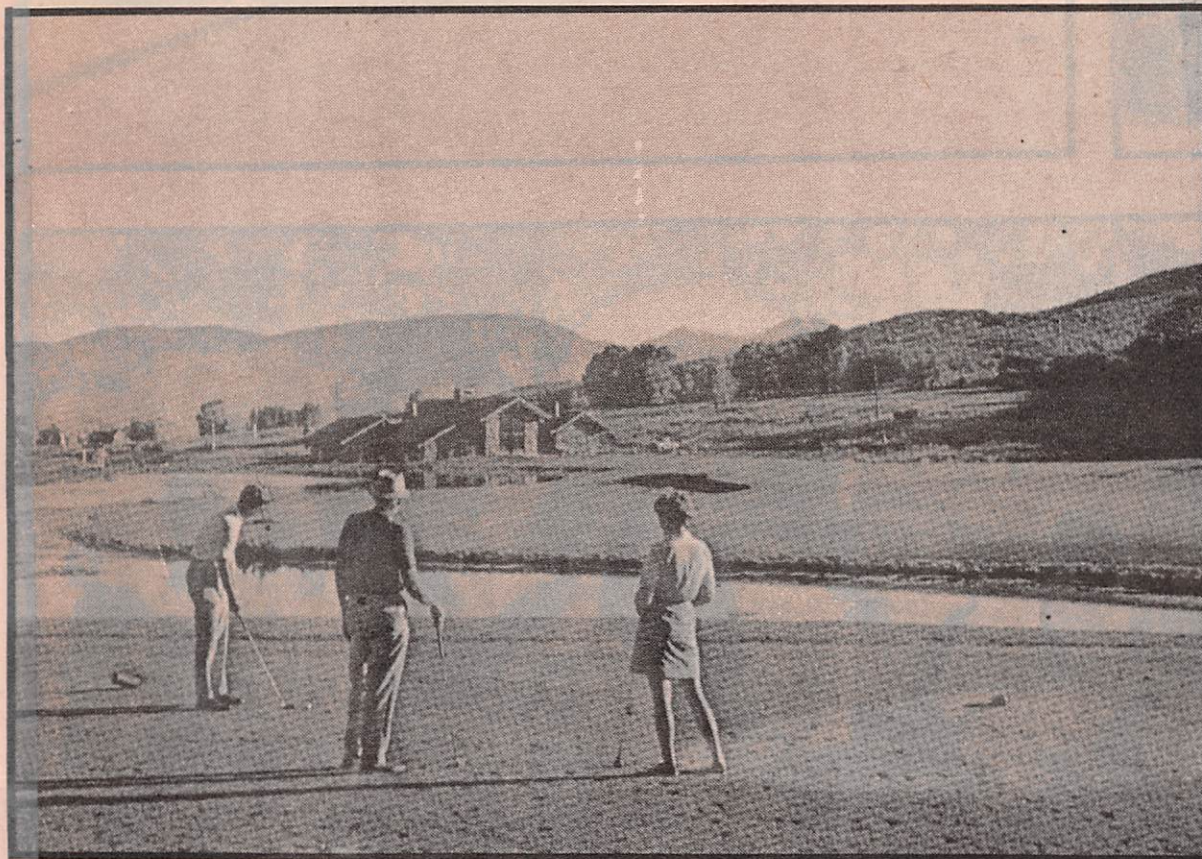
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Wasatch Mountain State Park



WASATCH MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
P.O. Box 10, Midway, Utah 84049
(801) 363-3232

WASATCH MT. STATE PARK

Wasatch Mountain State Park is located on 22,000 acres at an elevation of 6,000 feet on the east slope of the Wasatch Mountains near Midway, Utah in beautiful Heber Valley. A relatively moderate climate prevails during spring, summer and fall. Nights are cool and delightful. During winter, snow depths range from three to six feet. Temperatures often reach zero or below. Campers, picnickers, horseback riders, hikers, golfers, anglers, and hunters visit Wasatch Mountain State Park from April 1 through November 15. Cross-country skiers and snowmobilers seek recreation in the park during winter.

CAMPING AND PICNICKING

The Pine Creek Campground has 135 camping sites with utility hookups. Modern rest rooms and showers are nearby. Picnicking is permitted in the campground on a day-use basis when campsites are not occupied.

Several group-use areas which will accommodate large groups are available by advance reservation. Charges for group-use areas are determined by group size and length of stay. Reservations for individual campsites and group use areas may be made up to three months in advance by contacting the reservation office in person or by calling 801-654-3961 or 363-3232.

GOLF

A major attraction at the park is a 27-hole golf course. The course, which overlooks beautiful Heber Valley, has the reputation of being one of the best in the state. Weekend tee times (Saturday, Sunday, Monday) may be reserved on the preceding Monday. Tee time reservations for Tuesday through Friday may be made beginning the preceding Saturday. Reservations will be taken by telephoning 801-654-1901 or 328-2111 or in person. Each person may reserve two starting times. Advance group or tournament reservations are accepted beginning March 1 for the current calendar year only.

Carts are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Reservations, however, will be taken for the handicapped. Private carts are not permitted on Wasatch Mountain State Park Golf Course. Hours of operation are from daylight to dark.

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Par—72.

Holes 3-4-5-9-14-15 and 17 have sharp doglegs. Nielsen, who has played on most of the big courses in the nation, calls the 10th hole outstanding and says the par-3 eighth hole will be one of the most beautiful in the nation.

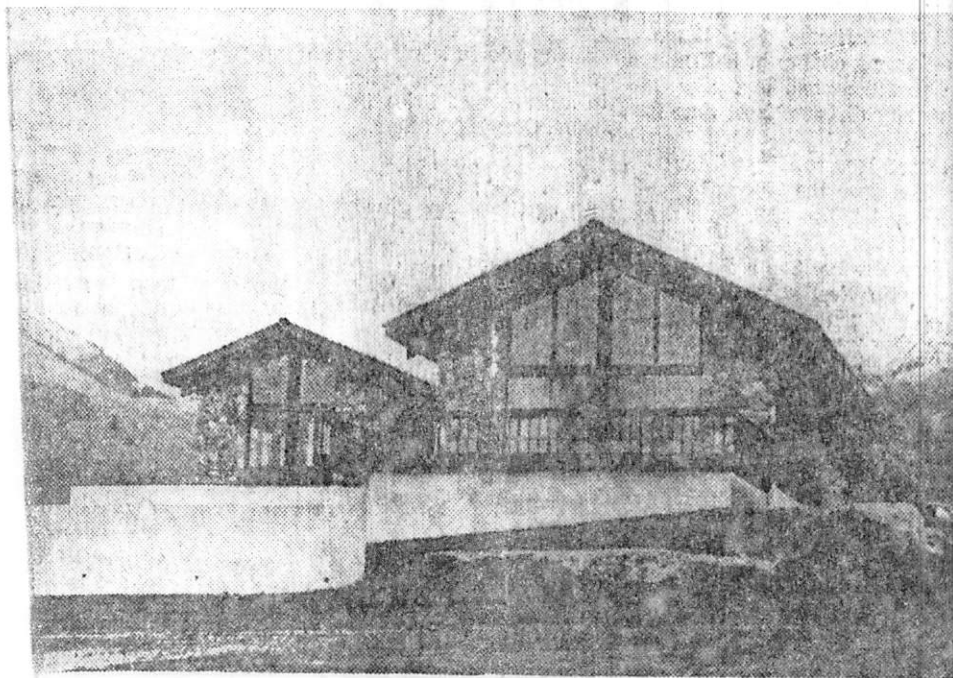
There's Trouble

For the average golfer some type of water trouble — ditch if the ball is pulled or pushed, or lakes to hit over — can be found on all but No. 14.

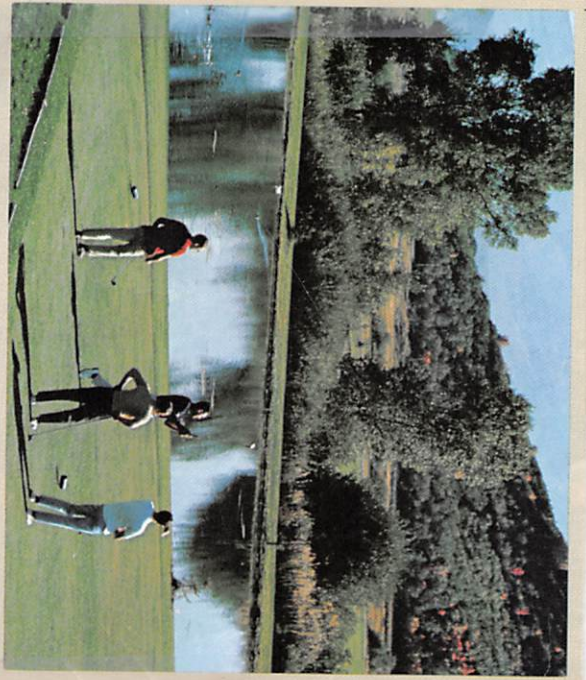
Because the course is in a state park there are camping and picnicking facilities near the course and the family can combine golfing with a complete day outdoors.

This is a beautiful course. This is a challenging course. And this is a public course.

So, public links golfers in the area, get ready for a love affair. When you play the Wasatch Mountain State Park course it just has to be a case of love at first sight.



Clubhouse at Wasatch Mountain State Park golf course is almost complete and should be ready when the course opens on about June 18.



MIDWAY

15 Wasatch Mountain State Park. This 22,000 acre alpine park features a 27 hole golf course, many scenic canyon and loop drives and hikes, fishing, modern campgrounds as well as special snowmobile trails in winter. Access from U-113 in Midway. Phone: 654-1791.



16 Wasatch Snowmobile Tours. Wasatch Mountain State Park Golf Clubhouse/Midway, Utah 84049/654-2189. Snowmobile rental, cross country ski and snowshoe rental. 50 miles of mountain trails, wildlife, guide service available. Operating Hours: 7 days a week, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Wasatch Mountain Park Announces Expansion Plans

29 Jan 1987

Adding ten miles of cross country ski trails by next winter is one of the expansions planned for Wasatch Mountain State Park, according to Don Morgan, Assistant Park Superintendent.

He said the five miles presently available for skiing on the golf course are good for novices. But the additional trail system will go into back country and offer challenges for experienced skiers.

A clubhouse/touring center will be constructed and leased to consessionaires who will sell and rent equipment, and offer lessons. Snowmobiling will be separated from skiing. Morgan said he also envisions a snowmobile facility at Lake Creek but that there are no immediate plans to expand snowmobiling because the present 60 miles of trail is about the capacity the park can handle.

He explained that although state budget problems may delay some expansion plans, the new ski facilities will be completed by next winter. The state will probably maintain all the trails but the park will need more trail-grooming equipment than the single snow cat now available.

He reported weekday camping was down a little during 1986 because fees were raised from \$7 to \$9, but the campgrounds were full on weekends.

He said there were a total of 785,735 day use visitors in the park and 43,169 campers during 1986, paying a total of \$118,601

in fees for camping, day use, rentals and snowmobiles. That's a \$10,600 increase over last year. 201,000 people used the golfing facilities, including parties, lessons, dinners and equipment sales. The golf course took in \$433,515 with \$7,802 in golf cart sales. Morgan noted that Wasatch County receives a share of the tax on those sales and the room tax which is charged to campers. He estimated the average visitor stays in the park three days and the peak month was July.

It is not inconceivable that winter sports could eventually draw as many people to the park as golfing does in the summer, according to Morgan, although he was not willing to commit to such a forecast.

Al Clayburn, superintendent of Deer Creek State Park, also reported overnight camping was down 47 percent at Deer Creek, because the Island Beach area was converted from camping to day use only, in order to meet the increased demand for boating and sailboarding.

According to his report, 264,294 people visited Deer Creek in 1986, an increase of 14 percent over 1985, paying a total \$63,369 in fees, down 7 percent from 1985. Boating was up 22 percent in 1986 with 95,920 boaters. There were 31,597 boats in the water during 1985, almost a third more than in 1985. Average stay per visit last year was 4.7 hours and the peak month was August.

